

Appl. No. 09/914,966
Atty. Docket No. 7456R
Amendment Dated June 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action Dated April 7, 2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently amended) An absorbent fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has an average fiber diameter of less than $10 \pm 5 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber comprises from about 20% to about 99.99% by weight of the fiber of starch.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber further comprises a plasticizer.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 13 wherein the plasticizer selected from the group consisting of: sorbitol, monosaccharides, disaccharides, glycerol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 13 wherein the plasticizer is present in the fiber at a level of from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the fiber.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber further comprises a cross-linking agent.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 16 wherein the cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of: polyamide-epichlorohydrin resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, glyoxylated polyacrylamide resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, polyethylenimine resins, dialdehyde starch resins and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 18 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 16 wherein the cross-linking agent is present in the fiber at a level of from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the fiber.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Previously presented) A fibrous structure comprising a plurality of fibers, wherein at least one fiber is a fiber according to Claim 11.

Claim 21 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an absorbency ranging from about $1 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$ to about $15 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$.

Claim 22 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a total flexibility ranging from about 1.0 g/cm to about 75 g/cm.

Claim 23 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean dry tensile strength ranging from about 10 g/cm to about 1200 g/cm.

Claim 24 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 400 g/cm.

Claim 25 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 24 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 200 g/cm.

Claim 26 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean decayed wet tensile strength ranging from about 0 g/cm to about 20 g/cm.

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Claim 27 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about 10 g/m² to about 450 g/m².

Claim 28 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an apparent density ranging from about 0.04 g/cm³ to about 0.12 g/cm³.

Claim 29 (Currently amended) A paper product comprising a fibrous structure, wherein the fibrous structure comprises an absorbent fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has an average fiber diameter of less than ~~10~~ 5 μ m.

Claim 30 (Currently amended) A fibrous structure comprising an absorbent fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has an average fiber diameter of less than ~~10~~ 5 μ m and wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about 10 g/m² to about 450 g/m².

Claims 31 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber is a melt blown fiber.

Claim 32 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber is a spunbond fiber.